

The Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Lecture Series Presents:

Slavery and The Indiana Supreme Court: For and Against?

A Free CLE worth 1.5 Credit Hours, Course Number: 0105371

November 15, 2007

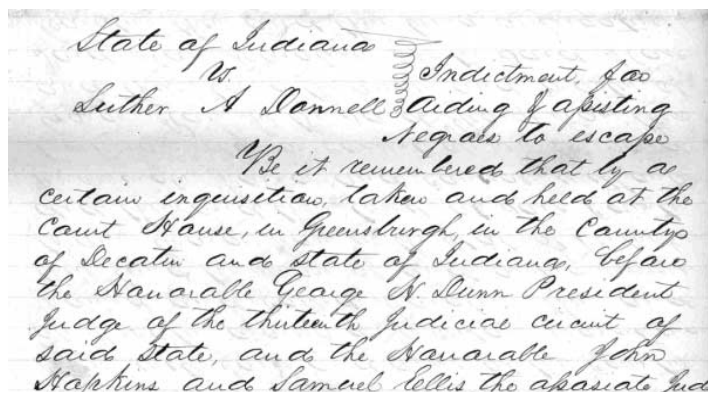
3:00-4:30 P.M.

Indiana Statehouse

Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom (Room 317)

(Light refreshments will follow)

The Indiana Supreme Court, with funding from the Cornelius O'Brien Lecture Series and the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education, will host a free CLE event featuring Prof. Paul Finkelman—a nationally recognized speaker on topics related to slavery and the law. Professor Finkelman will discuss the complexity of the fight for and against slavery in Indiana and the United States in the 19th century.



Part of the documentation for Indiana Supreme Court case, *Donnell v. State* (1852).

Following the enactment of a stronger federal fugitive slave law in 1850, some northern legislators and courts looked for ways to protect the rights of blacks in their communities. This task was especially difficult because in 1842 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Pennsylvania law about the recapture and return of fugitive slaves (*Prigg v. Pennsylvania*). The Court held that the federal government possessed exclusive jurisdiction in dealing with runaway slaves—jurisdiction that the states could not invade.

Despite much ambivalent public sentiment regarding the rights of blacks, the Indiana Supreme Court continued to work to uphold the state's constitutional prohibition of slavery and indentured servitude. Indiana's justices even used *Prigg* to invalidate an act of the Indiana legislature prohibiting any sort of aid to fugitive slaves in *Donnell v. State* (1852). Donnell was a Decatur County Hoosier who had been convicted of "inducing the escape" of a Kentucky slave.

For more information or to reserve a seat contact:

The Chief Justice's Chambers

317-232-2550 or shachey@courts.state.in.us

SPEAKER: Professor Paul Finkelman is the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at Albany Law School. He received a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.A. from Syracuse University. Later, he was selected as a fellow in Law and Humanities at Harvard Law School.



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Dr. Finkelman will present a second talk Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 7:00pm in the main meeting room of the Indiana State Library Building at 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis as a part of the **Spirit & Place Festival: A Civic Collaboration of the Arts, Religion, & Humanities**. This session is free and open to the public, but CLE credit is not available.